

MYSTIC COOPERATIVE TASK GROUP
MEETING SUMMARY
AUGUST 18, 2014
GREATER MYSTIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OFFICE
12 ROOSEVELT AVENUE, 2ND FLOOR, MYSTIC

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Walsh at 8:00 a.m.

Those in attendance were Kristin Clarke, Rick Norris (Town of Groton); Ed Haberek, Barbara McCrall, Sara Lathrop (Town of Stonington); Bill Scheer (Mystic River Park); John Kennedy (Mystic Flag Committee); Tricia Walsh (Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce); Mike Souza (The Sun).

II. DISCUSSION OF MEETING SUMMARY OF JUNE 16, 2014 MEETING

MOTION: To approve the minutes of June 16, 2014 meeting.

Motion made by Walsh, seconded by Kennedy, so voted unanimously (6-0-1).

III. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. Update on Mystic Streetscape Project – Phase II

Norris reported that Phase II is essentially complete with the exception of street furniture (benches, bike racks, trash cans). There are more plantings in this phase, making it very attractive, especially in the areas near the Mystic Arts Center Parking lot and the Randall's Wharf Parking lot. Abutting property owners have agreed to maintain the plantings in the future.

B. Partner Engagement- Progress Report & Introductions

Clarke spoke with Ed Dombroskas from the Eastern Regional Tourism District and the Downtown Mystic Merchants Association. Both were interested in participating in the group, but had conflicts for this meeting.

Barbara McCrall is the new Public Works Director for the Town of Stonington and provided an introduction and discussion of paving plans for Stonington for the rest of the season. They will be focusing mainly in Pawcatuck as well as Flanders/Deans Mill area and Coogan. McCrall indicated that the sidewalks will be completed first along Coogan, and hopefully, the milling and paving can be completed this fall. Stonington has a very inexpensive contract right now, so they are being quite aggressive in completing paving projects. McCrall also discussed the lighting issue and indicated that the poles are not straight. Either poles need to be replaced or brackets need to be angled to counteract the poles. Norris said that Groton has similar problems and that they should work together.

C. Work Plan and Brainstorming- continue conversation from April meeting

The brainstorming discussion focused on transportation options. There needs to be a greater variety of transportation options beyond more efficient roads and parking. The Water Taxi between Groton and New London could be extended to Mystic. Mystic still

needs to consider mass transit- there hasn't been much long term planning in this regard. Clarke mentioned that when the cruise ship came into New London, there was no SEAT connection to bring visitors to Mystic and everyone had to take cabs. Habarek mentioned there is a disconnect with the casinos. The COG has a transportation plan and it should be reviewed. Lathrop mentioned that there are shuttles to the casinos but not to Mystic and there are a lot of people disembarking in Mystic.

The various transportation studies that have been completed need to be reviewed to see what is still relevant and can be put into action.

The parking in downtown Mystic was also discussed. There were some concerns about the level of activity and parking required by new businesses coming into town. Lathrop mentioned that there is some logic in creating pocket parking lots. Habarek said that a hard look needs to be taken at the 4th District voting hall- drainage hasn't been resolved, but it is a viable area to add parking.

D. Update from Task Group members

Kennedy informed the group that the flag was stolen again on Saturday night. This is the 5th time in 15 years and the 2nd time in 3 months. They are meeting later this week and will consider options for securing the flag. Walsh indicated that Cardinal Honda very generously replaced the last 2 flags.

Walsh discussed ongoing conversations with Amtrak about the Train Depot- there is a water issue in the basement at the depot and plowing in the winter is challenging. The Art Festival was successful this year and all involved seemed happy with the event. She will be attending a tour of the Coast Guard Research & Development Center later in the week.

Clarke provided an update on the Airport Development Zone- research is underway to provide to DECD and the CT Airport Authority. Groton must make a case for why such a zone would be beneficial to businesses and hopes to have a preliminary report completed in September. Groton, Stonington and the GMCC partnered for a grant proposal to host a series of events explaining the C-PACE (Connecticut-Property Assessed Clean Energy) program and the proposal was selected. Events must happen before the end of 2014.

Lathrop asked how to find the ridership figures for Shoreline East to New London. The Great American Railroads website has extensive information.

E. Other

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 9:14 a.m. was made by Walsh, seconded by Lathrop, so voted unanimously.